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Def 1 112
 X - Pers 2 S. SYMINGTON
 X - Pers 2 B. GOLDWATER

Symington Assails Goldwater Claim That U-2 Flight Showed American Air Superiority

He Challenges Statement That U.S.
 Has Planes That Could Shoot Down
 High-Flying Craft — Gen. Phillips
 Doubts Bombers' Advantage.

By BRIG. GEN. THOMAS R. PHILLIPS, U.S.A. (Ret.)
 Military Analyst of the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON, July 8.

THE RUSSIANS, in making public the fact that the U-2 aircraft had penetrated 1300 miles inside the Soviet Union, had to accept the fact that much of the world would assume that this indicated that American bombers could fly over the Soviet Union with impunity.

Senator Barry Goldwater, (Rep.), Arizona, a brigadier general in the Air Force reserve, and a pilot who has flown jet aircraft, made this assumption in the recent debate in the Senate on the conference report on the defense appropriation bill.

"Khrushchev has admitted to the world," he said, "that Russia cannot adequately defend itself against air attack.

"Since 1956 our Air Force has had fighter planes which have the ability to shoot down the U-2, even though it could fly at 60,000 or 70,000 feet," he continued. "We have aircraft in our inventory today which could attack the U-2 from above.

"But obviously the Russians have nothing like that. They have no aircraft which could attack up to 80,000 feet. Obviously, they have no rocket that an aircraft could carry which could be launched from that altitude to shoot down the U-2."

SENATOR STUART SYMINGTON, (Dem.), Missouri, who is the best-informed person in the Senate on defense matters, had left the floor at the time Goldwater spoke. A few days later, after making his way to the Air Force, Symington spoke in reply to Goldwater.

Taking Goldwater's points one by one, Symington denied the accuracy of all of them. "Since 1956," Symington quoted Goldwater, "our Air Force has had fighter planes which have the ability to shoot down the U-2, even though it could fly at 60,000 or 70,000 feet."

Quoting Goldwater, "we have

not aim itself at a target above it. When it reaches the top of the zoom it falls like a bullet and is out of control until it reaches heavy air. It cannot aim at a target below it.

Symington was at a disadvantage because the information he had about the altitude at which the U-2 can fly was classified and he could not disclose it. It has been revealed in trade publications. The first time was after the aviation writers convention in May, when the fact that the U-2 could cruise at altitudes from 90,000 to 100,000 feet was revealed. The U-2 was prohibited for this meeting.

THE COMBAT ALTITUDE of the B-52 bomber is listed as "above 30,000 feet." The B-52 can cruise 40,000 to 50,000 feet higher. Our fighters and Soviet fighters, our guided anti-aircraft rockets and Soviet anti-aircraft rockets, all can reach this altitude.

Soviet anti-aircraft rockets can reach 100,000 feet, but the height-finding radar with which they are guided is ineffective at this and altitudes down to about 60,000 feet. The United States' first-generation anti-aircraft missile, the Nike Ajax, is effective to about 60,000 feet.

The second generation Nike Hercules anti-aircraft guided rocket is effective to altitudes of 150,000 feet. At present, therefore, the United States can shoot down such a plane as the U-2, but the Soviet cannot.

It might be noted, incidentally, being an air-breather, cannot reach aircraft at 90,000 to 100,000 feet.

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